

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES			
Number	Effective	Title	Owner
VII-20	08/06	State Park Land Classification System	Development Bureau

Approval:  _____

The *State Park Classification and Resource Area Designation System* contains evaluation criteria for a bi-level approach to determining the management direction for a state park. First the park is given an overall park classification based on its purpose for establishment, desired visitor experiences and its resource and site qualifications. Next, the lands within the park are given resource area designations based on the characteristics of the resources.

The statewide park classification system establishes four categories of state parks in Idaho. They are: Natural Park, Recreation Park, Heritage Park and Recreation Trailway. Each classification has a distinct purpose, unique criteria, appropriate development intensity, specific management principles, and compatible uses.

The resource area designation system has been developed to classify all lands managed by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. Six levels of development/activity are recognized in this system. These levels span a wide range of resource management strategies, from low to high resource impact management. The six categories of resource area designations are: Scientific Area (extremely low impact), Natural Area (low impact), Heritage Area (low impact), Conservation Area (low to moderate impact), Recreation Area (moderate to high impact), and Service/Support Area (high impact).

All land within a state park receives resource area designations during the preparation of the master plan for the unit. Depending upon the unique characteristics of each park, any or all of the six resource area designations may be utilized; however, it should not be expected that all resource area designations would appear in all parks.

Park classifications are established and resource areas are designated, with their boundaries delineated, during the park's master planning process. The Idaho Park and Recreation Board approve them with its adoption of the plan.

A copy of the most recent *State Park Land Classification and Resource Area Designation System* is available on the IDPR website or from Development Bureau planning staff.